

OLD CANCELLATIONS ON DE LA RUE ISSUES FROM 1860
BARS



TARGET
CLEANED AND
ISSUED TO
VILLAGE. NO
ENTIRE KNOWN



CCWm2



CCWm2



PAID

No Wmk

THREE
CIRCLE
NUMERALS



MAHEBOURG 1



FLACQ 2



SOLDIERS OR
LOCAL RATE



WATERMARK
INVERTED

COUNTRY 2P
TOWN DELIVERY 1P



OVERSEA
BASIC RATE



LONG SEA
TO U.K



NO WATERMARK

U.K. VIA
MARSEILLES

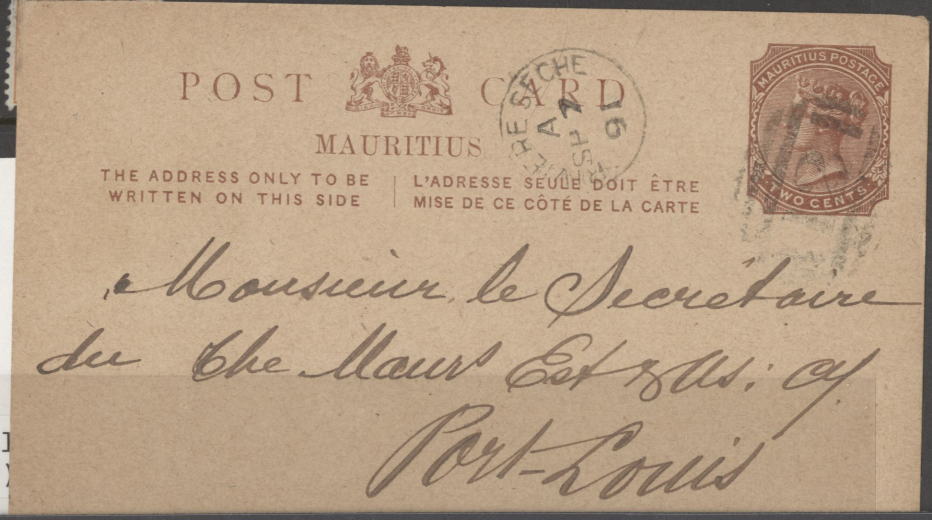
REUNION



INDIA



MAURITIUS:1859 1/.vermill
cancelled'B53'.(SG#34)







MAURITIUS: Group of 8 facsimiles & forgeries of the primitives in various colors.



MAURITIUS: Group of 9 forgeries of the Britannias in various colors.



MAURITIUS—A mystery finally solved?

A Study of the Barred Numeral Cancellations

By PETER IBBOTSON

BEFORE the barred Mauritius numeral cancellations of 1869 to the 1890s there had been several different types of cancellation, for the most part "dumb" killers and "targets" but including, at different times, the numerals 1 and 2 in two concentric circles and 1 to 17 in three concentric circles. In 1869, however, a drastic reorganisation of the island's post offices led to the introduction of a new series of cancellations, the numerals in ovals of bars. Excluding Port Louis, Seychelles and Rodrigues, to which the cancellations B53, B64 and B65 had long since been allotted, there were in 1869 32 post offices (some newly established, others of long standing) and to each was allocated a number from 1 to 32 in an oval of three horizontal bars above and below, with a single parenthesis—()—at either end. The figures were 7.5 mm. high and the ovals 22 mm. high and 25 mm. long.

Later, 18 more offices were opened. They were allotted barred numeral cancellations of a slightly different type



1869

1878

The "B" prefix—1878(?)

Gibbons auction catalogue wrongly attributed to Port Louis; perhaps wisely the compiler made no attempt to identify B48! Yet the barred numerals were in use for over 20 years and, even a century ago, Mauritius had a high literacy rate and a large volume of postal traffic both inland and overseas. Where *have* all the covers gone? The answer is that those despatched outside Mauritius have, in the main,

MAURITIUS: Reprint sheet of the 1847 'POST OFFICE' 1d. & 2d. in dark blue.

